

**Sermon Notes of
Pastor Craig Kuhlman's Sermon on August 2, 2020:**

**"Transformed by the Son of God:
The Prayer of the Overcomer
(John 17:1-26) (Part 19)"**

[In today's sermon, Pastor Craig Kuhlman on Zoom shows us through the words of Jesus that the truth of who we are reflects the agape love that God has given us so that we can be self-giving and show sacrificial love to others.]

Introduction:

- John 17 gives us Jesus' last prayer before His crucifixion.
- There is something special about this prayer not only for the disciples but even for us today.
- What will help us to be an overcomer is for us to truly understand the truth of God's being and the way of God's being.
- An overcomer has an eternal relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit.

Truth of God's Being or nature:

1. God is Love (Greek word is agape) It means "other- centered, self-giving, sacrificial love".
2. Jesus overcame the world, sin, death, and evil, and is light in a dark world.
 - We see that who God is matches what He does, and how He acts and treats us.
 - We also know that God doesn't lie nor does He change.

Way of God's Being – matches the truth of God's being

Truth of Our Being: (We are included by God's incarnational nature – Jesus tells us that when He died, we died and when He rose, we rose and that we are seated at Jesus' right hand in heaven.)

1. We are Love (agape) "other- centered, self-giving, sacrificial love to others"
2. Through Jesus we overcame the world, sin, death, and evil, and are light in a dark world. (That's who we are in Jesus.)

Way of Our Being:

1. We don't always reflect agape love in our lives, due to our human nature, but we are growing and transforming in love, and becoming like Jesus.
2. We are overcoming the world, sin, death, and evil and are light in a dark world.

In Preview of today's message (John 17:1-26) – Pastor Craig's rhyming verses:

*Jesus prayed for Glory,
In this amazing Story.*

*Eternal life was Given,
To those whom the Father had Driven.*

*Eternal life is not a prize to be Won,
But a relationship with Father and Son.
Jesus finished the work and Plan,
He existed before the world be-Gan.*

*Jesus revealed who the Father Was,
Belief and response the disciple Does.
Jesus prayed for and protected Them,
He would go they remained as his Gem.
Jesus granted his full Joy,
Despite worldly hate, he wasn't Coy.
Sanctified by Truth as they were Sent,
God's Word is Truth is what he Meant.*

*Son in the Father, Father in the Son,
All believers in Jesus just as One.
Jesus has given us his same Glory,
Our unity and light is the ongoing Story.*

Overview of today's message about us as overcomers:

1. We share Jesus' life (verses 1-5)
2. We know Jesus' name (verses 6-12)
3. We have Jesus' word (verses 13-19)
 - a. Gives us his joy (verse 13)
 - b. Assures us of his love (verse 14)
 - c. Imparts his power (verses 15-19)
4. We share in Jesus' glory (verses 20-26)

1. We share Jesus' life (verses 1-5):

John 17:1 (NIV), After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.

- Submission is one of the truths of God's being.
- In that perichoretic relationship, from the very beginning, the Father, Son and Spirit mutually submitted to each other in their relationship with each other.
- So we see in this passage that Jesus is submitting to the Father and the Father is submitting to the Son.
- Even as created beings, we are given divine nature through the Incarnation and are seated in the heavenly realm with Jesus.

2) For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. 3) Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

- Does verse 2 mean that some are in with God and others are out?

- No, we need to realize that there are many scriptures that tell us Jesus came to save all humanity.
- We need to realize that eternal life is not a fire-insurance plan.
- And it's not something that off in the distance or off in the future.
- We have eternal life right now because it's the salvational relationship with the Father and the Son.

4) I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. 5) And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

- Here Jesus is defining His deity; He's defining the fact that He was God as John 1:1 and verse 14 shows us that Jesus was the Word from the very beginning.
- So Jesus tells us the He existed with the Father since the very beginning.

2. We know Jesus' name (verses 6-12):

6) "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world.

- We might call verse 6 a primary interpreter of God.
- Jesus came to reveal the Father and everything we know about the Father comes from what Jesus revealed about Him.
- And so when we see Jesus, we see the Father.
- Now, if Scriptures don't reveal the Father the way Jesus revealed Him, we probably have an issue of interpretation and translation.

6b) They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. 7) Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you.

- So, here Jesus is connecting the relationship the disciples had with Jesus to the Father, as well.
- We also see their mutual submission to each other – the Father gave to the Son and the Son gives back to the Father.
- Submission is one of those the truth and the way of God's nature.
- It's not the submission that human nature has perverted and used in the wrong way.

8) For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

- Now, we see that the disciples accepted who they were in Jesus.
- This comes just a little beyond belief in the head sense.
- It's been said that the distance between the head and the heart can be one of the longest journeys that one can travel.
- Here we see that the head also became heart for the disciples and all believers.
- We know that the law is written on our hearts and that means God's way becomes our desire, it becomes our pursuit and our way in how we treat others and loving others.
- And of course, we can't love others without first loving God.

9) I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. 10) All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them.

- Hmm, verse 9 should give us pause to think.
- We know that there are many other scriptures that say that Jesus came “to save the world.”
- Jesus has included all of humanity through His incarnation, so why wouldn’t He pray for the world?
- Perhaps, we should look at this verse via another translation that will be more accurate in describing what Jesus actually said.
- So, let’s look at the Mirror translation.

John 17:9 (Mirror), I pray specifically for them – those who know that they are yours to begin with and that you gave them to me. I’m not here to debate with those who still see themselves defined by the world-system!

- So, this says we back to belief and response. Believers respond.
- Jesus is saying that He’s not here now to debate with the non-believers, because His time was so short.

11) I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

- Here, Jesus is talking about unity, He’s talking about His protection for His followers.

12) While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

- Here’s another passage that can be troubling.
- Destruction isn’t in the cards if all have been reconciled by Jesus – we are all now “children of God.”
- So let’s look at another translation that may give us a better understanding of what Jesus was saying.

John 17:12 (Mirror), While I was with them in the world I guarded over the ones you have given me in your name and did not lose any, except the lost son who fulfilled what was written prophetically.

- So, we see that Judas was simply lost – he wasn’t a believer at that time.
- Now, he’ll be given an opportunity at the Judgment to see and understand who Jesus really is.
- Judas wasn’t destroyed, he merely died, but his soul lives on.

3. We have Jesus’ word which enables us to overcome by (verses 13-19):

a. Gives us his joy (verse 13):

13) “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.

- So, Jesus prayed that we all would have His full measure of joy.
- That’s part of our truth of who we are.
- Now we may not always feel it, but that’s the truth.

b. Assures us of his love (verse 14):

14) I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.

c. Imparts his power (verses 15-19):

15) “My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.

- At the cross, Jesus conquered and overcame, death, sorrow, the evil one Satan, but he’s still there – but he doesn’t have power over us.

16) “They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. 17) Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. 18) As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. 19) For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

- Yes, we are truly sanctified. Our truth and our way is being sanctified through the process of this transformation that we are going through, which will not end until we die.
- Pastor Craig is going to go through the transformed church that is in the book of Acts as part of his next sermon series.

4. We share Jesus’ glory (verses 20-26):

20) “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,

- We see that other believers come through the disciples.
- Believers will come through the hearing of the Word spoken by us to not-yet-believers as we let our love and light shine.

21) that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

- We do have an impact on not-yet-believers by just letting our light shine.
- It’s interesting that the “12 Step Program” encourages reforming addicts “to pray to a higher being.”
- It doesn’t tell them to pray to Jesus or God the Father.
- But as they are praying to a “higher bring” God can hear those prayers.
- Now when we let our light shine, by letting God’s love to others show, people will see something different in us.

- That part of the way God designed in having not-yet-believers become followers of Jesus.

22) I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one –

- So, we need to understand that we have God's glory and that we have Jesus' glory, which is something we reflect and share with others.

23) I in them and you in me – so that they may be brought to complete unity.

- Here, Jesus is talking about their perichoretic relationship.
- At the incarnation, all humanity was taken into and included in Jesus' nature.
- Jesus is in us just as He is in the Father.

23b) Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

- So once again, it's that love, it's that reflection of God's spirit that flows out of us.
- We need to let other others see God's light in us.
- Then, our response will be different than theirs.

24) "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

25) "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. 26) I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

- Even though Jesus has left the earth, but He hasn't left us – He will continue to make the Father known in our lives in an ongoing progression.

In Summary of John 17:1-26 (Let's say this together):

*Jesus prayed for Glory,
In this amazing Story.
Eternal life was Given,
To those whom the Father had Driven.*

*Eternal life is not a prize to be Won,
But a relationship with Father and Son.
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(Closing prayer)